

Status of GWMP

Although ID4 does not have a GWMP pursuant to AB3030, a main part of the Agency's mission is to manage groundwater; and the mission of ID4 is to deliver a supplemental water supply to the urban Bakersfield area. ID4 accomplishes its mission by delivering surface water to: (1) replenish the groundwater aquifer beneath its service area; and (2) for purification and distribution to four retail water customers. The delivery of purified surface water provides in-lieu recharge to the underlying groundwater basin. ID4 also conducts extensive groundwater monitoring activities and produces an annual report detailing groundwater conditions within its service area. Therefore, the Agency Act and the ID4 formation documents that are found as Attachments 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 form the basis for Agency groundwater management activities in Kern County and in the urban Bakersfield area. The annual report on water conditions prepared by ID4 documents the groundwater monitoring activities conducted as part of groundwater management and is found as Attachment 3.2.

Kern County Water Agency Background

The Agency was formed by Chapter 1003 of the Statutes of 1961. The primary purpose for creating the Agency was the establishment of a single entity in Kern County to negotiate and administer a water supply contract with the State of California for State Water Project (SWP) water. In November 1963, the Agency contracted with the State of California in order to provide a firm water supply to supplement the estimated safe yield of the underground basin. The Agency Act, Act 9098 (Attachment 2.2), was signed into law July 6, 1961 and conferred to the Agency some groundwater management oversight for certain parts of the basins within the Agency's boundary. The Agency's boundary is coincident with the Kern County boundary. Please see Figure 2 (Attachment 4.2) for a regional map of the Agency area, boundaries of sub-basin(s), and location of local agencies.

The Agency has been exercising its groundwater management powers since its inception, in ways compatible with and ways that extend beyond the groundwater management plan components listed in Water Code section 10753.7. Therefore, the Agency Act is the groundwater management plan equivalent for the Agency. The Act has been included in this application as Attachment 2.2. Please refer to Table 1 (Attachment 3.4) for a detailed comparison of AB3030 provisions, Agency Act, and Agency's active groundwater programs.

The Agency's functional areas of responsibility include:

1. SWP
2. ID4
3. Cross Valley Canal
4. Groundwater
5. Groundwater Banking
6. Flood Control
7. Outreach Activity

Kern County Water Agency's Improvement District No. 4 Background

Subsequent amendments to the Agency Act added provisions for the formation of improvement districts as needed to expedite solutions to specific problems relating to flood control, drainage or water supply. Activities leading to the creation of ID4, encompassing the urban Bakersfield area, were initiated by the Agency Board by adoption of Resolution No. 25-70 on December 10, 1970 found as Attachment 2.3, that outlined the need for an improvement district.

The purpose of ID4 is to provide a supplemental water supply for portions of the metropolitan Bakersfield area via the importation of SWP water. ID4 has 77,000 acre-feet of Municipal & Industrial Table A water and 5,946 acre-feet of Agricultural Table A water from the SWP. In order to transport this supplemental water to ID4 from the California Aqueduct, the ID4 Project included ID4's participation in the Cross Valley Canal (CVC). Upon reaching ID4 via the CVC, the supplemental supply is delivered directly to recharge areas for direct replenishment of the underlying groundwater aquifer or to the Henry C. Garnett Water Purification Plant for eventual use by the water purveyors served by the plant. The Agency Board adopted two resolutions (Resolutions Nos. 16-71 and 17-71) that formed ID4 on December 21, 1971 and financed the construction of the purification plant, related water conveyance facilities and a portion of the cost of the CVC. These resolutions finalized formation activity and established the boundaries of ID4 as they exist today as shown on page 61 of the most recent Report on Water Conditions (Attachment 3.2). As a result of the Agency Act and subsequent resolutions, ID4 is a part of the Agency and, for the purposes of this grant application is the lead agency within this sub-basin for the proposed groundwater project.

ID4 is committed to supplying high-quality drinking water to customers served from the purification plant. ID4 strives to achieve the highest standard of customer satisfaction, and meets or exceeds all regulatory standards to provide the best quality drinking water at the most reasonable cost as demonstrated in the 2011 Annual Water Quality Report (Attachment 3.5). ID4 is also committed to reducing groundwater overdraft.